

9 JUL 1949

1034

TOP SECRET

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

1. IRAN: Reaction to proposed US assistance--US Ambassador Wiley reports that, at the direction of the Shah, Ebtehaj (influential governor of the National Bank of Iran and, in effect, financial adviser to the Iranian Government) called at the Embassy to discuss the matter of US aid to Iran. According to Wiley, Ebtehaj considers the proposed US military assistance to Iran to be totally inadequate. He expressed the opinion that Iran might very well refuse the offer and that the government might have to consider changing its foreign policy, disassociating itself from the US and looking elsewhere for support of Iranian interests. Ebtehaj declared that the situation would be incomprehensible to Iranians if the US "gave liberal assistance to Turkey and treated Iran in such a shabby manner."

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